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Social Security Number Frequently Asked Questions

Why is the Secretary of State collecting Social Security numbers?

Beginning May 3, 2004, Michigan will join 49 other states in requiring Social Security numbers from all those who apply for, or are renewing a driver's license. This is the result of a federal court ruling requiring Michigan to comply with the federal Welfare Reform Act and collect Social Security numbers so the state's Family Independence Agency can use them as a tool in child support enforcement.

Who will see my Social Security number?

Concerted effort and planning has taken place to ensure this information will be protected. It is important for the public to know that the Social Security numbers will not be displayed or encoded on the driver's license. This information will be limited to select individuals in government agencies as allowed by law, for the purpose of child support enforcement. Michigan complied with this federal mandate only after proper safeguards were in place to protect the personal privacy of state residents.

What if I don't have a Social Security number?

A person who has never been issued a Social Security number must certify to that fact on an application obtained at a Secretary of State branch office. Individuals who make a false statement regarding their Social Security number on the application are subject to imprisonment for not less than one year nor more than five years, or a fine of not less than \$500 nor more than \$5000, or by both fine and imprisonment. The individual's license or permit will also be suspended. **Please note: If you are unable to provide this information, we will be unable to process your driver's license application.**

Where can I get a Social Security Card?

Social Security cards are issued by the Social Security Administration. To apply for one:

- call 1-800-772-1213, or
- go to your local Social Security Office, or
- visit SSA's Web site at www.ssa.gov